

	Portales Police Department Standard Operating Procedure & Policy	SOP #	217.01
		Date Revised:	
1700 N. Boston St. Portales NM, 88130	Citizen Ride Along Policy	Effective Date	
(575) 356-4404		Approval:	Pat Gallegos, Chief of Police

## I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

In order for a citizen to ride with a Portales Police Officer they will need to read the following policy statement, regulations and procedures.

## II. POLICY

The Portales Police Department encourages open and candid police operations and strives to establish a climate that allows officers to perform their duties with the acceptance, understanding, and approval of the public. Citizens are allowed to ride with officers to promote trust and understanding.

## III. REGULATIONS (also appear on the back of the Hold Harmless form)

- A. Appropriate clothing will be worn. At a minimum this will include a business casual type shirt (generally one with a collar) and slacks. Jeans will be allowed if they are in good repair and clean. Shoes, boots, or tennis shoes are allowed. For female riders, dresses are allowed, but it should be suggested to the rider beforehand that pants would be more practical during the ride along.
  - 1. No shorts, T-Shirts or sandals will be allowed on a ride along.
  - 2. Clothing with any offensive writing or pictures will not be allowed.
- B. Participants shall be under the direct control of the police officer.
- C. Officers will not allow participants to enter private homes or other areas where a citizen has a reasonable expectation of privacy.
- D. Participants will also not be allowed to photograph and/or videotape during a Ride Along without written permission from the Chief of Police.
- E. Participants shall conduct themselves in a civil and courteous manner at all times.
- F. Participants shall not interfere with police officers while in the performance of their duties.
- G. Participants shall not perform police duties, to include use of the police radio. In an emergency, they may take appropriate action to protect themselves and/or officers.
- H. Officers shall not engage in pursuits while participants are passengers in their vehicles.

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- I. The Chief of Police, Lieutenant or supervisors shall have the option to deny an individual's request to participate in the Ride Along Program.
- J. Officers may request, through their immediate supervisor, that the Ride Along privileges of the participant be terminated for just cause.
- K. Participants shall not carry weapons while they are participating in the Ride Along Program.

#### IV. PROCEDURE

- A. Citizens desiring to participate in the Ride Along Program must complete a hold harmless agreement to the division where they desire to participate. Only completed forms will be accepted and must be approved by the Sergeant and the Lieutenant and will be kept on file with the Lieutenant.
- B. Citizen participation will be limited to one shift per pay period and scheduled within the guidelines of the shift rotation schedule.
- C. Juveniles between 14 and 16 years of age may not participate in the Ride Along Program.
- D. Juveniles between 16 and 18 years of age may participate in the Ride Along Program with the approval of the Chief of Police. They must include a signed permission slip from a parent with their application.
- E. Hold harmless forms shall be kept on file for the calendar year.
- F. Participants may only ride after the hold harmless form has been approved by all required parties and approval has been granted by the shift supervisor or Lieutenant.